

What is claimed is:

Sub A1
5 1. A breathable, stretchable, hydrophilic material comprising:
a porous inner layer of stretchable fabric;
a porous outer layer of stretchable fabric;
a central layer of open cell foam fixed between said inner and outer layers to stretch with said inner and outer layers.

10 2. The material according to claim 1, wherein said inner layer includes a blend of polyester and lycra.

15 3. The material according to claim 2, wherein said blend is 83% polyester and 17% lycra.

20 4. The material according to claim 1, wherein said outer layer includes a blend of nylon and lycra.

25 5. The material according to claim 4, wherein said blend includes 8.99% bright nylon, 10.85% semi-dull nylon, and 8.16% bright lycra.

6. The material according to claim 1, wherein said outer layer includes a plurality of loops for hook-and-loop fastening.

7. The material according to claim 1, wherein said central layer of open cell foam is compressed.

Sub A2
30 8. The material according to claim 7, wherein said central layer of open cell foam is compressed at a four-to-one ratio of original thickness to compressed thickness.

9. The material according to claim 1, wherein said central layer of open cell foam is polyurethane foam.

10. The material according to claim 1, wherein said central layer is flame laminated to said inner layer.

11. The material according to claim 1, wherein said central layer is flame laminated to said outer layer.

12. The material according to claim 1, wherein said central layer is flame laminated to said outer layer and said inner layer.

13. A method of manufacturing a breathable, stretchable, hydrophilic material comprising the steps of:

(A) flame laminating an outer layer of porous stretchable fabric to a central layer of compressed open cell foam to form a two-layer composite material;

(B) curing said two-layer composite material for a period of time; and

(C) flame laminating an inner layer of porous stretchable fabric to a central layer of compressed open cell foam to form a three-layer composite material; and

(D) curing said three-layer composite material for a period of time.

14. A method of manufacturing a breathable, stretchable, hydrophilic material comprising the steps of:

(A) flame laminating an outer layer of porous stretchable fabric to one side of a central layer of compressed open cell foam and simultaneously flame laminating an inner layer of porous stretchable fabric to an opposite side of said central layer to form a three-layer composite material; and

(B) curing said three-layer composite material for a period of time.